**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DUNDALK ON TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2013**

**PRESENT**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor J Green, presided.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor M Bellew, Councillor S Bellew, Councillor M Butler, Councillor M Dearey, Councillor M Doyle, Councillor C Keelan, Councillor K Meenan, Councillor O Morgan, Councillor E O’Boyle, Councillor J Ryan and Councillor H Todd

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Martin, County Manager

F Pentony, Director of Services and Town Clerk

D Storey, Senior Executive Officer,

C Duff, Town Engineer

J Lawrence, Administrative Officer

S Mullen, Senior Executive Planner

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Tom Plunkett, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Education & Skills

Michael Price, Design Architects

John Cottrell, Louth Volunteer Centre

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Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Members were given an update by Tom Plunkett, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Education and Skills, and Michael Price, Design Architects on the proposal for the new post primary school in Dundalk. It was agreed that a public viewing and discussion session will be facilitated by the Designers once the Part VIII application has been advanced. F Pentony further advised that Part VIII planning requirements will commence within the next month with a decision on the proposal hopefully being made in July. Members were advised that (a) this project is the sole project in the Dundalk area that will receive Department funding as part of its 4 year plan (b) due to the scale of the project that EU tenders thresholds apply, (c) there are no social clauses in Government contracts at present in relation to local employment, (d) special needs area to cater for maximum of 12 children, (e) all necessary land is not yet acquired, (f) agreement has been reached with the Town Council engineers on foundations of the building to allay flooding potential, (g) pitched roof to the structure and a separate entrance for teaching and ancillary staff.

The Members broadly welcomed the proposal.

The Meeting commenced with Prayers at 8pm

**061/13 VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach J Green and seconded by Councillor H Todd the members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Owen Molloy, former Driver with Dundalk Town Council.

**062/13 VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach J Green and seconded by Councillor H Todd, it was agreed by the Members to send a Vote of Congratulation to the Dundalk Unit of the Order of Malta on achieving sixty years of selfless service to the people of Dundalk and surrounding area.

**063/13** **PLANNING AND RELATED MATTERS**

13/5 Kieran McKinley Extension of duration for Ref No

07/139 Permission for 38 dwellinghouses and associated works at Seacrest Manor, Lower Point Road, Dundalk

The Members were advised that permission was refused for the application.

13/6 Seosamh (Soisarach) Seosamh Ó Donnaile & Associates

O’Donnaile & Comhlaigh intend to apply for planning

Permission at North Marsh, Dundalk

The Members were advised that Further Information had been requested.

13/7 Alan Warnock & Isabelle Verdin Permission for a two storey extension

to the rear of 32 Cluan Enda, Dundalk, Co Louth

The Members were advised that Further Information had been requested.

13/8 John Toal Retention of rear kitchen & bathroom

at 8 Mary Street South, Dundalk, Co Louth

The Members were advised that Further Information had been requested.

13/9 Brendan & Alison McGuinness Permission for change of use of

existing garage to habitable accommodation etc at 24 Meadow View, Avondale, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/10 Stephen Hickey Permission for the demolition of part

of the rear return at ground floor level etc at 3 St Mary’s Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/11 Dundalk Sub Aqua Search & Rescue Permission for development that will

Unit consist of the demolition of an

existing stone shed etc at Custom House, Quay Street, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/12 Pauline Clifford Permission for development that will

consist of demolish existing sunroom and reconstruct of a new sunroom etc at 96 Oaklawns, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/13 Henry Backhouse & Company Ltd Permission for change of use of

existing first and second floor office accommodation to 2 No. Apartments at 75 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk, Co Louth.

S Mullen confirmed for Councillor M Dearey that the Development Plan supports this type of development.

It was confirmed for Councillor M Dearey by County Manager, J Martin, that the granting of an extension of duration permission for a development in the administrative area of Louth County Council was a function of the Executive of Louth County Council.

**064/13** **PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members

**065/13** **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor S Bellew the Members agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the 26th February 2013.

Minutes of the CPG Meeting of the 18th February 2013 were noted by the Members.

**066/13** **MATTERS ARISING**

Minute No 03/13 – F Pentony confirmed for Councillor M Butler that the Recycling Centre tender was still under consideration. Minute No 38/13 (Taxi Stands) – C Duff confirmed for Councillor C Keelan that there was no funding currently available to do the necessary works, however it was being examined.

Councillor M Dearey referred to Minute No 44/13 (Energy Strategy) and remarked that this item was welcomed and not noted as reported in the Minute.

**067/13** **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

D Storey advised Councillor M Butler that additional information regarding tenant participation with the Rent Arrears Unit would be made available to the Members. County Manager Joan Martin advised the Members that considerable monies from rates, rents, development levies, water charges, etc remain outstanding and that staff will increase collection efforts in whatever way is relevant.

D Storey advised the Members on a €2 million allocation from the Department for the Regeneration Pilot Project and of a countrywide €269,000 allocation for Energy efficiency works (Cooley Park was being examined for this expenditure).

D Storey confirmed letters have been sent out to approximately 4400 applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List for the Housing Needs Assessment. Councillor M Bellew requested a simplified version of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme application form and D Storey advised that the Housing Agency have a leaflet on same.

**068/13** **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members.

**069/13 PRESENTATION BY JOHN COTTRELL – LOUTH VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

An Cathaoirleach J Green welcomed Mr Cottrell and invited him to address the Members.

Mr Cottrell gave an informed presentation to the Members on the aims and actions of the Louth Volunteer Centre. Following the presentation Mr Cottrell answered queries from the Members.

**070/13** **3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

F Pentony advised the Members on the legislative requirements for the tabling of the programme.

It was confirmed for the Members that the proposed expenditure on public lighting improvements was for existing lighting, works on Hill Street Bridge subject to a new design requirement, lead replacement works to finish in 2013, cycle lanes network expenditure will be new works to infill gaps in network, funding for fixing Stapleton Place not part of the Capital Programme but available elsewhere.

County Manager Joan Martin cautioned that many of the proposals were dependant on available funding and development contributions in particular must materialise before works can commence.

On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle the Members approved the Programme as presented.

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**071/13 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTINGUISH PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY – LYNCH’S LANE OFF ARD EASMUINN**

Councillor H Todd advised of his bringing forward of the motion to allow debate on the issue and proposed that the Council hold an Oral Hearing with an Independent person to conduct same. Councillor K Meenan seconded the motion and it was agreed by the Members. The Members requested that the process commence without delay.

**072/13 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTINGUISH PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – 33 ROAD 2, MUIRHEVNAMOR, DUNDALK**

The report from S Cull, Project Manager was noted. On the proposition of Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor M Butler the members agreed to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way as outlined.

**073/13** **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTINGUISH PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY - 2 DRIVE 1, MUIRHEVNAMOR, DUNDALK**

The report from S Cull, Project Manager was noted. On the proposition of Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor M Butler the members agreed to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way as outlined.

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**074/13 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTINGUISH PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY – 24 GRANGE DRIVE, MUIRHEVNAMOR, DUNDALK**

The report from S Cull, Project Manager was noted. On the proposition of Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor M Butler the members agreed to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way as outlined.

**075/13 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTINGUISH PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – 26 DRIVE 2, MUIRHEVNAMOR, DUNDALK**

The report from S Cull, Project Manager was noted. On the proposition of Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor M Butler the members agreed to the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way as outlined.

**076/13 REPLY TO NOTICE OF QUESTION – COUNCILLOR O MORGAN**

Councillor O Morgan expressed his satisfaction with the reply.

**077/13** **CONFERENCES / EVENTS – TO APPROVE MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE AT THE ENCLOSED CONFERENCES**

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor M Doyle, the Members attendance at Conferences listed with the agenda and recorded in the Conference Register was approved.

**078/13 NOTICES OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR O MORGAN**

1. “That this Council call on the Northern Ireland Authorities to immediately release Marian Price on, among others, humanitarian grounds”.

Councillor H Todd seconded the motion and Councillor O Morgan outlined his reasons for tabling the motion and requested support from the Members for same. Councillor M Dearey proposed and Councillor S Bellew seconded that the Members not agree to support the motion and outlined his reasons for same.

An Cathaoirleach J Green called for a roll call vote and

**In favour of supporting the motion** – Councillors O Morgan, J Green,

K Meenan and H Todd

**Against supporting the motion** – Councillors M Dearey, S Bellew,

C Keelan, M Doyle and E O’Boyle

**Abstained** – Councillors M Butler, J Ryan and M Bellew

***The motion was deemed lost***

1. “That this council mark the regrettable drowning at Soldier`s Point of our late lamented colleague Stephen Fergus, by erecting a commemorative plaque at Soldier`s Point adjacent to the existing plaque to the memory of the two light-keepers who drowned in the channel”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle.

F Pentony advised the Members that plans were already underway to erect a memorial plaque by the colleagues of Stephen. Councillor O Morgan asked could the Members be associated with this memorial and F Pentony replied that this would be a matter for the staff involved in the erection of the memorial plaque.

**079/13 NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR M BELLEW**

“That this Council repair / reinstate the footpath on Clanbrassil Street between Costcutter’s and Boylan’s Shoe Shop”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O Morgan and agreed by the Members.

Councillor M Bellew was advised that the proposed upgrade was included in the 3 year Capital Programme

**080/13** **RESOLUTIONS**

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor M Doyle, the Members agreed to support the motion of Clones Town Council in relation to abolition of roaming charges.

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor C Keelan, the Members agreed to support the motion of Buncrana Town Council in relation to medical cards for Polio survivors.

On the proposition of Councillor J Green and seconded by Councillor K Meenan, the Members agreed to support the motion of Kilkee Town Council in relation to the closure of Garda Stations.

On the proposition of Councillor C Keelan and seconded by Councillor K Meenan, the Members agreed to support the motion of Castlebar Town Council in relation to Private Rented Dwellings.

**The meeting concluded with prayers @ 9.05pm**

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Minutes confirmed at Meeting

Held on the day of April 2013

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**CLEIREACH AN BHAILE**